

Markets Forum

A meeting of Markets Forum was held on Wednesday, 28th July, 2010.

Present: Cllr Bill Noble (In the Chair); Cllr Aiden Cockerill (vice Cllr Mrs Jennie Beaumont); Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Ms E Hutchinson (Market Trader Representative), P Johnson (Market Trader Representative), C Higgins (Market Trader Representative), M Pinkney (Market Trader Representative)

Officers: A.Brayshaw , R.Bradley, N Laws, C Watson (DNS); N.Hart (LD)

Also in attendance: Market Traders

Apologies: submitted on behalf of Cllrs Mrs Beaumont and Cook.

M Declarations of Interest

19/10

There were no declarations of interest.

M Minutes of the meeting held on 26th May 2010

20/10

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 26th May 2010.

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th May 2010 be agreed as a correct record.

M Thornaby Market Report

21/10

Following the administration of Thornfield Properties Plc, it had been agreed by the administrator's agents that the long leasehold interest in Thornaby Town Centre would be marketed for sale.

Following an assessment process, BAE Systems Pension Funds Trustees Ltd had been recommended as the preferred assignee and subsequent consent had been granted by the Council on the 23rd June 2010 to assign the Building Lease and Market Agreement to BAE Systems. All obligations included within these Agreements would be transferred as part of the assignment of the lease.

With regard to the four proposed layouts that had been circulated to market traders for comments, it was noted that no comments had as yet been received. Mr Hutchinson (Market Trader representative) commented that use of the space in front of Lidl would be a much more viable location for traders, with perhaps some utilisation of the car park space there to increase the capacity. It was noted that these comments would be taken forward by the Regeneration Projects Manager into future discussions with BAE Systems regarding the layout options for the market.

AGREED that:

1. The report be noted.

2. The comments received regarding the proposed layout of the Town Centre market be taken forward into future discussions with BAE Systems.

M Stockton International Riverside Festival Report

22/10

The Forum was advised that a full SIRF programme was now available from the Tourist Information Centre.

Feedback was also provided to the Forum regarding events that had led to a decision being taken not to proceed with the proposed Keen Green and Ethical Market on the Riverside. It was noted that the decision had been taken in consultation with the Council's Health & Safety team and Stockton Police, and followed concerns expressed by the organisers due to operational reasons. It was hoped to invite the organisers to have further discussions in September with a view to discussing the potential for integration within next year's festival.

A small selection of community stalls would be set up in the Shambles within Unit 3 for the duration of the festival.

AGREED that the report be noted.

M
23/10 **700th Market Celebrations Report**

Details were submitted confirming the expenditure of £14,930 as part of the 700 Year Market Celebrations. The expenditure was within the £15k budget provided and split 50-50 between the Council and the Market Traders Promotion Fund. An additional sum of £5k was also accrued to cover the marketing of the event.

A planning application for the siting of the plaque to mark the occasion on the north side of the Shambles building, had now been submitted, and a decision was awaited.

It was noted that whilst it had been hoped that Market Place Europe (MPE) would bring a market to the town centre during 2010, this proposal had now been dropped as MPE were not prepared to bring a market to trade on the Castlegate site, and instead preferred a central High Street location. It was hoped that further discussions would be held regarding a potential event in 2011.

The Forum was however advised that it was hoped to use space within Wellington Square to facilitate an exhibition by Creative Arts regarding the 700 Years Market celebrations. This free event would utilise walk in and exhibition space with photographs and press coverage from the event, as well as a soapbox.

AGREED that the report be noted.

M
24/10 **Farmers Market Report**

It was noted that the 3rd of 4 Farmers Markets would be held on the 31st July 2010 during SIRF.

Footfall statistics indicated an extra 2,500 people came into Wellington Square during the Farmers Markets; and Food First, the operator, were keen to commence discussions with regard to the potential of Stockton hosting a further 6 markets next year.

AGREED that the report be noted.

M
25/10 **EU Services Directive**

Work to review how the Council operated its markets and how it licensed them, was currently taking place in order to comply with the EU Services Directive.

Once completed, a draft policy document would be submitted to this Forum for consideration.

AGREED that the report be noted.

M
26/10 **Marketing Report**

The Forum was advised that the Town Centre Management were currently investigating the possibility of a markets loyalty card/voucher scheme and that approaches would be made to traders in the near future to establish whether they wished to be involved in the proposed scheme.

AGREED that the report be noted.

M
27/10 **Market Traders Promotions Fund**

Members were advised that the market trader's promotional fund stood at £8,695.

Market Traders present at the meeting submitted a proposal that they wished to use £3k from the fund to purchase a horse box which would be made available for use by a local girl who suffered from cerebral palsy. The horse box would be fitted with the logo of Stockton Markets, and as it was being used at events within the area, it would offer the opportunity for promotion of the market.

Concern was expressed by some traders present at the meeting that full consultation on the proposal had not been carried out. Details of the procurement route proposed for the purchase were questioned. Members suggested that given the conflict of opinion on the proposed purchase amongst traders present at the meeting, there was a need to set out a clear criteria for expenditure from the fund. However the Chair advised that a decision ultimately on expenditure from the fund lay with the traders themselves, and was not within the remit of this Forum as the Council merely acted as banker to the funds held, and had no control over its expenditure.

Traders present at the meeting indicated by majority that they wished to sanction the proposed purchase from the Promotion Fund.

AGREED that the report be noted.